AMENDMENTS

In the claims:

Please amend claims 1, 14, 17, 18 and 20 without prejudice.

1. [FIVE TIMES AMENDED] An improved method of conducting a specific binding assay for the presence of an intracellular analyte in a cultured cell sample which method comprises the steps of:

i) mixing a sample of cultured cells with a cell lysis reagent to provide a lysed cellular sample; and release intracellular analyte

ii) mixing and reacting the lysed cellular sample with a specific binding assay reagent comprising a specific binding partner of the intracellular analyte and a tracer to perform a specific binding assay; thus forming a reaction mixture comprising a specific-binding partner-intracellular analyte complex;

iii) mixing the lysed cellular sample with a cyclodextrin sequestrant for the cell lysis reagent, whereby the specific binding assay of step ii) is performed in the presence of the sequestrant; and

iv) detecting the presence of the specific binding partner-intracellular analyte complex, the presence of which is indicative of the presence of intracellular analyte in the sample wherein the improvement lies in the sequestrant preventing the cell lysis reagent from adversely affecting a binding reaction between the analyte and its specific binding partner.

Sub G1 F2

14. [TWICE AMENDED] A kit, suitable for assaying for an analyte by the method as claimed in claim 17 comprising: a detergent; a sequestrant for the detergent; a specific binding partner of the analyte; a tracer; and separation means for separating bound tracer from unbound tracer.

F3

17. [TWICE AMENDED] The method as claimed in claim 1, which further comprises the step of separating bound tracer from unbound tracer.

F4

18. [THREE TIMES AMENDED] The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the tracer is selected from the group consisting of radioactive isotope label, enzyme-linked label and fluorescent label.

F5

20. [AMENDED] A kit suitable for assaying for an analyte by the method claimed in Claim 1, comprising a detergent, a cyclodextrin sequestrant for the detergent, a specific binding partner for the analyte and a vessel suitable for cell culture.